

*Washington, DC* - To assist the City of Newburgh Fire Department with the purchase of new firefighting equipment, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced a \$62,100 federal grant provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG). The department will use the funding to purchase six thermal imaging cameras and 3,000 feet supply hose for its trucks. The grant is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The City of Newburgh's firefighters deserve to have the very best equipment to ensure they are able to protect themselves and save the lives of others when called into dangerous situations," said Hinchey. "This grant will help the department purchase a new supply hose and thermal imaging cameras, which are an essential tool when smoke and darkness make it difficult to rescue those in harm's way. "

Thermal imaging cameras are used regularly at structure fires, enabling firefighters to see through smoke, thus minimizing the length of time civilians and personnel are exposed to the deadly toxins and by-products of fire. The cameras will enable the department to equip all apparatus with thermal imaging capabilities. The fire department will also replace 3,000 feet of 4 ¼ inch supply hose. The current hose has been in use for 20 years and has surpassed its life expectancy.

The Hortonville Volunteer Fire Company will also receive a \$36,503 federal grant. The company will use the funds to replace an outdated, cloth hose with a rubber hose and to purchase new nozzles that comply with new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. The funding will also help purchase a turbodraft -- equipment used for pumping water from nearby lakes, rivers or other bodies when a hydrant is not available.

"The Hortonville Fire Company is an all-volunteer department that serves a large rural area in Sullivan County," said Hinchey. "This equipment will provide Hortonville's volunteers with the updated equipment they need to continue the high level of service they now provide to their community. With a new hose, nozzles and turbo draft, these extraordinary volunteer firefighters will have the tools they need to continue saving lives."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full

funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. More than \$18.5 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

"These grant also prevent the need for local taxpayers to shoulder the expense of this equipment through property taxes," Hinchey added. "I will continue doing everything I can to ensure that fire departments in New York and throughout the country have access to the equipment they need to rescue those in harm's way."

Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district in the past to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).